



News Release

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
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MINIMUM STREAM FLOW HEARING SET FOR NIAGARA SPRINGS, CREEK WATER RIGHTS

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State water managers have set a public hearing for August 11 on two applications for minimum stream flow water rights on Niagara Springs and Niagara Springs Creek, the Idaho Department of Water Resources announced today.

The water rights, if approved, would set minimum flows on three segments of the spring and the creek to protect portions of the Niagara Springs outflow. The Idaho Water Resource Board filed the applications in January 1988 and March 1992. If issued, the permits will be subject to all prior water rights.

The hearing is divided into two sessions, both of which will be held at the Hagerman Valley Senior Citizens Center, 140 East Lake St., in Hagerman. The two sessions are:

- At 2:00 p.m. on August 11 a hearing will be held for formal participation of full parties in the case; and,
- At 7:00 p.m. public witnesses may provide their comments in a less formal environment.

The first water right application would create a pair of minimum streamflows for recreation, aesthetics, fish and wildlife use year round on two segments of the stream totaling one-eighth of a mile in length. The water right would have a priority date of January 29, 1988.

The two are:

- a 45 cubic feet per second streamflow year round starting at the last Idaho Power Company diversion ending at the outflow of the Idaho Power fish hatchery; and,
- a minimum year round streamflow of 110 CFS beginning at the approximate location of the outlet of the Idaho Power Fish Hatchery and extending downstream to the confluence of the Niagara Springs estuary and the Snake River.

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The second water right application would create a year round aesthetics and recreation minimum stream flow of 264 CFS beginning at the head of Niagara Springs continuing downstream to the Rimview Diversion. The priority date for this application would be March 24, 1992.

The minimum streamflow applications were filed to protect portions of the Niagara Springs outflow reaches that may not be protected under a different water right in the name of the State of Idaho, Department of Parks & Recreation.

Any party who wishes to formally appear in the hearing for the purpose of presenting evidence and testimony or cross-examining witnesses should file a notice of appearance with the IDWR, Attn: Gary Spackman, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0098, on or before July 6, 2004,. Public witnesses are not required to file a notice of appearance. Informal written views and comments may also be submitted to IDWR prior to the hearing.

The hearing will be conducted in a facility that meets the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require special accommodations in order to attend, participate in or understand the hearing, please advise IDWR at least (10) days prior to the hearing. Gary Spackman will conduct the hearing.